

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown:

**Claims 1- 48 (deleted)**

Claim 49 (new). An isolated human NAALAD-ase L protein having an amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO: 35) encoded by the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO: 34) illustrated in Figure 1.

Claim 50 (new). The isolated human NAALAD-ase L protein according to claim 49 having the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 35) or including the insertions (SEQ ID NOS 65, 67 & 69) or deletions (SEQ ID NOS 61 & 63) of the amino acid sequence illustrated in Figure 3.